



Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

4. (Amended) Device as claimed in 9, wherein at least one of the surfaces forming the inner surface of the channel [capable of capillary liquid transport] is hydrophilized.

9. (Amended) A device for withdrawing samples of liquid samples for analytical elements, wherein the device comprises:

a carrier and

a cover having a surface that cooperates with a surface of the carrier to form a capillary-active channel, the channel having a sample application opening and

wherein [a] at least one notch in the form of a partial groove is located in one of the carrier and cover surfaces forming the channel at an edge of the sample application opening of the channel so that one side of the edge of the sample application opening is at least partially [discontinuous] interrupted by the at least one notch and the surface facing the channel opposite to the at least one notch is exposed.

16. (Amended) A method for withdrawing a liquid sample into an analytical element, the method comprising the steps of providing a device that comprises a carrier and a cover having a surface that cooperates with a surface of the carrier to form a capillary-active channel having a sample application opening and wherein [a] at least one notch in the form of a partial groove is located in one of the carrier and cover surfaces forming the channel at an edge of the sample application opening of the channel so that one side of the edge of the sample application opening is at least partially [discontinuous] interrupted by the at least one notch and the surface opposite to the at least one notch facing the channel is exposed and contacting the edge of the sample application opening [broken by] adjacent to the notch with the liquid sample so that the liquid sample is transported by capillary forces into the channel.

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